

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01606 051253Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----025865 051254Z /64

O R 051138Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8335  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1606

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK ZA  
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: KAUNDA CONSIDERS FRONTLINE SUMMIT ON NAMIBIA  
NEXT WEEK

1. I MET WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO DISCUSS HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT  
TO THE UNITED STATES FRIDAY MORNING. MENTIONING THAT IT COMES  
AT A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT MOMENT FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA, I  
BROUGHT UP THE NAMIBIA SITUATION. I SAID WE THOUGHT IT WOULD  
BE TRAGIC IF WE MISSED THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR A SOLUTION IN  
NAMIBIA BECAUSE OF WHAT WE COULD ONLY CALL INTRANSIGENCE ON  
SWAPO'S PART. I DESCRIBED THE SWAPO MEETING WITH THE CONTACT

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GROUP ON MAY 1 AND SAID THAT WE BELIEVED THIS WAS A DECISIVE  
MOMENT IN WHICH REAL LEADERSHIP HAD TO BE EXERCISED OF THE KIND  
HE HIMSELF HAD SHOWN AT THE TIME OF ZAMBIA'S INDEPENDENCE.  
KAUNDA SMILED AS I REPEATED THE STORY I HAD HEARD OF THE UNIP  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECISION IN 1962 TO REFUSE THE BRITISH  
PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERIM CONSTITUTION AND HIS OWN ULTIMATUM TO  
THE COMMITTEE THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO TAKE A CHANCE AND

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE IF IT WANTED HIM TO CONTINUE AS ITS LEADER.

2. KAUNDA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN HIS VIEW THIS WAS A CRUCIAL POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. AS A RESULT, HE SAID, HE HAD DECIDED TO CALL A FRONTLINE SUMMIT HERE IN LUSAKA ON THE SUBJECT OF NAMIBIA AT WHICH SAM NUJOMA WOULD BE PRESENT. THE SUMMIT WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD BEFORE HE LEFT LUSAKA NEXT SATURDAY THE 13TH WOULD BE ONE AT WHICH FIRM DECISIONS WOULD BE TAKEN. BOTH KAUNDA AND CHONA (THE ONLY OTHER PERSON PRESENT) EXPRESSED CONCERN WHEN I TOLD THEM THAT THE CONTACT GROUP MEETING WITH NUJOMA AND HIS NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE HAD BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL MONDAY. THEY SAID THEY DIDN'T SEE HOW A SUMMIT COULD BE ARRANGED IN THAT SHORT A TIME. KAUNDA STATED IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION: "I SUPPOSE TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE?" I REFERRED TO YESTERDAY'S ATTACK BY SOUTH AFRICA AND THE OBVIOUSLY DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION IN NAMIBIA, MENTIONING THAT DICK MOOSE HAD CALLED AMBASSADOR SOLE IN TO EXPRESS OUR DISMAY AND GRAVE CONCERN AND OUR REQUEST FOR AN EXPLANATION, BUT I SAID WE COULD ONLY EXPECT MORE OF THIS FROM BOTH SIDES UNTIL A SETTLEMENT WAS REACHED.

3. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE THINKING WAS ABOUT HOW LONG THE MEETINGS WOULD CONTINUE. IF THEY WENT ON FOR TWO DAYS, IT WOULD STILL BE POSSIBLE TO TAKE A PLANE FROM NEW YORK TUESDAY NIGHT AND REACH LUSAKA THURSDAY MORNING. KAUNDA ASKED WHETHER I COULD INQUIRE ABOUT THE EXPECTED PROGRAM OF MEETINGS AND INFORM MARK CHONA AS SOON AS I HAD A REPLY.  
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4. AFTER THE MEETING I CHATTED BRIEFLY WITH CHONA (WHO CONFESSED THAT THE SUMMIT MEETING WAS HIS IDEA). AT HIS MOST FORTHCOMING, CHONA SAID THE TIME HAD COME WHEN ALL AGREED NUJOMA AND SWAPO HAD TO ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL. THEY DIDN'T CARE WHAT PROBLEMS HE HAD WITH SHIPANGA. THE ONLY PROBLEM WAS WALVIS BAY AND THERE THEY WERE ASKING US FOR A FORTHCOMING STATEMENT. I REVIEWED AS I HAD IN THE PAST OUR WILLINGNESS TO STATE OUR VIEW THAT WALVIS BAY SHOULD BECOME PART OF NAMIBIA AS A RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE AND NOTED THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO GO BEYOND JUST ISSUING A STATEMENT AND CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO THIS END. CHONA SAID THIS WAS ENOUGH. WE SHOULD COME TO A DECISION NOW.

5. CHONA FEELS THAT AS A PRACTICAL MATTER IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO HOLD THE SUMMIT BEFORE THE PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR THE UK AND THE U.S. HE BELIEVES NUJOMA MAY DRAG HIS FEET BECAUSE THE SWAPO LEADER KNOWS THAT HE WILL BE URGED BY THE FRONTLINE TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, CHONA IS WILLING TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER TO SEE WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE, RECOGNIZING THAT EVEN THE PROSPECT OF SUCH A MEETING MAY ENCOURAGE NUJOMA TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN NEW YORK. CHONA ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT A POSITIVE

CONTRIBUTION TO A RESOLUTION OF THE NAMIBIA PROBLEM WOULD  
CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF KAUNDA'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

6. REQUEST ADVISE SOONEST HOW LONG NEW YORK TALKS ARE EXPECTED  
TO GO ON AND WHETHER WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE KAUNDA AND CHONA'S  
INITIATIVE TO TRY TO HOLD A SUMMIT ON NAMIBIA BEFORE THE 13TH.  
LOW

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## Message Attributes

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